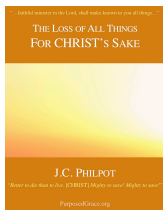


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

November 18th, 2018

“The LORD is nigh unto them that
are of a broken heart; and saveth
such as be of a contrite spirit”

(PSALM 34:18)



New on our bookshelf... **J.C. Philpot**
The Loss of All Things for Christ's Sake

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us

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**Sunday mornings beginning at 10 am,
and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm**

Services in Spanish Sunday evenings at 6 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

RUTH — LAY DOWN AT HIS FEET

Recorded on Wednesday evening, November 1st, 2017

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?

"THEN SAID ONE UNTO HIM, LORD, ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?"

(LUKE 13:23)

Peter's fervent prayer, "Lord, save, or I perish!" was much better than this curious question [MATTHEW 8:25]. "*Are there few that be saved?*" was an unprofitable one. Suppose our Lord had given a direct answer to it, assured him there were but few that would be saved, and told him the exact number, what good would this [questioner] have got by it? Learn hence, [first of all] that unprofitable questions are to be avoided. They proceed from a vain curiosity, and are proposed to gratify the itch of a speculative [amusement]. Indulge no thoughts in thy mind above, beyond, nor contrary to what is written. They may amuse and perplex, but cannot edify thy soul. Observe, [secondly] the wisdom of thy Lord. He does not give a direct answer to this vain question, but improves it to general usefulness. As though He had said, Friend, thy question is impertinent [disrespectful]. Thou art prying into a matter that concerns thee not! Thou hast a notion of salvation in thy head, and hast put a curious question from thy tongue, but thy heart is unconcerned about thy own salvation. Rather than answer thy unprofitable question, I will improve it to general use:—Strive to enter in at the strait gate. [Thirdly] disciple, here is an admirable lesson for thee and me. Let us learn to improve every curious question into godly edification; nice and subtle distinctions, into practical and experimental conversation. You can scarce begin to speak of the grace of God and the salvation of Christ to poor blind sinners, but they will ask, Do not you hold the doctrine of election? I am persuaded, it would be best to follow our Lord's

conduct. Give no answer to the question. Set forth the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the deplorable state sinners are in, the absolute necessity of a Saviour: the matchless glory of His person, the riches of His love to sinners, the fulness of His salvation for them, and the need we have of faith in Him, to be clothed in His righteousness, justified before God, and eternally saved by Him. This, this is the way to instruct poor sinners' minds, and to warm and enliven our own souls. Dry disquisitions [speeches] promote jar and discord. Let Jesus, the strait gate, be in our view. "Let us consider the end of our conversation, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever" [HEBREWS 13:7,8]. Let us look to Him every day and every hour, to save us from the deceitful pride of our hearts, the abominable wickedness of our nature, and from all our cursed lusts, which war against our souls.

*This is our comfort, dearest Lord, That every soul thou'll save,
Who comes to thee with self abhorred, Salvation for to crave.*

*Though chief of sinners, Lord, I am, Yet still I hope in thee:
O suffering, loving, saving Lamb, Save, save poor guilty me.*

[PASTOR] **WILLIAM MASON**

TRUST IN CHRIST

"...THE SALVATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS OF THE LORD: HE IS THEIR STRENGTH IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE. AND THE LORD SHALL HELP THEM, AND DELIVER THEM: HE SHALL DELIVER THEM FROM THE WICKED, AND SAVE THEM, BECAUSE THEY TRUST IN HIM." (PSALM 37:39-40)

Beloved, this is the very gospel of our salvation—"the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD" (PSALM 37:39). Now, while those that oppose the gospel of Christ would assert that "salvation is up to you" or "salvation is left up to the so called 'free will' of man"—God's word declares "Salvation belongeth unto the LORD" (PSALM 3:8), indeed "Salvation is of the LORD" (JONAH 2:9). You see, God decides to whomsoever He will give it. Salvation does not belong to man's worth, or man's will, or man's whim; rather, God "saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" and the apostle concludes salvation "is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (ROMANS 9:15-16). My sinner friend, it is God that shows mercy: Salvation is of Him, He purposed it, He purchased it, He provided it, and He gives it to His beloved people undeservedly. Indeed "He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him." May the LORD grant reader and writer alike to ever do that very thing "trust in Him" from the heart that He opens [ACTS 16:14]. AMEN!

PASTOR

GOD LOVES HIS CHRISTIANS

"I LOVE THEM THAT LOVE ME; AND THOSE THAT SEEK ME EARLY SHALL FIND ME"

(PROVERBS 8:17)

Objection: My graces are all imperfect. They do not please me, how can they please God? I cannot do the things that I would.

Answer: All true [beloved]; yet God loves His own workmanship in the soul. His Spirit prays in you, lives in you, walks in you. God loves the work of His own Spirit. Just as you love flowers of your own planting, as you love a spot that you have laid out much on; so God loves His children, not for anything of their own; but for what He has done for them, and in them. They are dear-bought, He has bought them with His own blood. He waters them every moment, lest any hurt them; He keeps them by night and by day, and how can He but love them? He loves the place where His Spirit dwells.

Just as God loved the temple: *"This is my rest: here will I dwell, for I have desired it,"* (PSALM 132:14) not for any good in it, but because it was the place of His feet; because He had done so much for it; so God loves His Christians, just because He dwells in them, and has done so much for them. Just as it was with Aaron's rod: it was a dry stick, like any other rod; but God made it bud forth, and bloom blossoms, and bear ripe almonds; and therefore he caused it to be laid up in the holiest of all. So is a Christian a dry tree; but God makes him bear fruit, and loves the work of His own hands. Dear Christians, walk after the Spirit, and please God more and more. He saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. His countenance doth behold the upright: *"I love them that love me."* [PASTOR] ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE

OUR REQUESTS MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD

"...LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD"

(PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

Paul, the pattern saint, would have us see the value of revealing our needs to God in prayer. We must not presume that the things required to sustain life will be granted without making our requests known unto God. Our requirements on earth and God's resources in heaven are meant for each other. If we ask, we shall receive. When we fail to ask, we fail to receive. The Word declares, *"Ye have not, because ye ask not."* There would be no point in exhorting Christians to make their requests known unto God unless He had made a sufficient provision to supply all their need. The apostle revealed the abundant riches of God when he said *"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (PHILIPPIANS 4:19). This assuring promise discloses the resources God made available to His people in answer to prayer. In the clear light of this certified promise they have no justifiable excuse for spiritual poverty.

[PASTOR] T.M. ANDERSON